MS 11617

RCM London

2nd. June 1971.

Thank you very much for your letter with the enclosed cutting, which we found most interesting. Plea se forgive me for taking fo long to reply (typewriter now sticking!) I have been up to the eyes with the organisation for the 7th1 July.

We were glad to have some notes about you and in due course you wil be sent the proofs of the programme. One or two points emerge.

The first is that, in order to have uniformity of style, print, etc c we did have to do some editing. We hope you don't mind. With the correction of typescript of the French words of the sonnets and with your husband's trans;ation, we did not dare to tamper, naturally enough! But we should like to have his name in full, please. All we know is "N.Wilkins". Would he not prefer to have his first name in full?

In your short biographical notes, should not Musique Concrete (sic) be Musique Concrète?

Finally in thenotes about the Silver Casket, we did not think that the actual casket should be honoured with capital letters: it is after all an account of a silver casket, and not a specific title.

Would you ver kindly consider these few points? Don't be offended, please, about our attempts to edit the programme. I can assure you we have had to do a deal more to some other bits of it!!!

Please send back the proofs as soon as may be bearing in mind these queries.

Plans go well. I think seats are selling reasonably fast and public booking opens on Monday next.

One lovely p ece of news I have for you is that we have persuaded the B.B.C. to record the entire concert, and I have stressed the im portance of YOUR composition to Peter Gould, who is incharge of that department, so with any luck you ought to get a broadcast.

I am trying to get a few publishers to come to hear the work, but can promise nothing. A broadcast might do the trick of course.

Will you please remember to beg, borrow or steal a pair of long gloves so that you may receive the prize from the Princess in due style? And in case any of your friends have been decorated, it is a 'Decorations will be worn' occasion. Otherwise, dinner jackets, lounge suits, anything goes; but for decoration-holders it is of course white ties.

I gather that the first complete rehearsal of "The Silver Casket" took place yesterday and that after three hours' hard slog, it began to take shape quite well. There will be a rehearsal on 6 July, the day before the concert, probably at Daphne Boden 's house... that is at 27, Warwick Gardens, W.14. (01.603.9336) I am sure you would want to be there and also at the rehearsal at the Q.E.H. on 7th. July, the morning of the concert at 10 a.m. till 1.p.m.

It would be much appreciated if you would keep the news about the B.B.C. recording to yourself until after Wednesday next, 9th. June, when I shall inform our Council. Till then, no one should know, but as I am writing to ou now and may not have time to do so again next week, I thought I would tell you the good news! But please don't spread it around until after 9th.!

All good wishes.... we do look forward to meeting you on 6th. or 7th. July and I hope the five Members who are doing your new work will please you....

Let me know if there is anything else we can help with.